



E-Mail Newsletter

16 June 2023

Volume 132, Number 3

Meeting Dates

JUNE 19th
6pm ~ Tourism
JUNE 20th
6pm ~ BOA-Canceled
JUNE 27th
6pm ~ BMIA
6pm ~ City Council

*All City Boards, Commissions, & Authority meets at the Municipal Court House unless otherwise noted.

Budget FYE2024



The Blanchard City Council and the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority adopted their required Fiscal Year Budget beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30,

2024 after holding a Public Hearing on the proposed \$31,747,804 Restricted and Discretionary Revenues. The City expects to expend a grand total of \$23,392,678 (Police, Fire, Street Improvements, etc.) for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024. We have \$3,191,919 in Reserves for unexpected emergencies and disasters.

Restricted revenues include monies earmarked by the voters such as the latest 1 penny sales tax for street improvements (approved by the voters on February 2022), and 1 penny sales tax for debt service (approved by voters in 2007); certain Street and Alley Funds and Water and Sewer Revenues.

A summary of the proposed Budget is located on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us with the adopted FYE2024 Budget coming soon online.

Special Events

June 17th

~ Kid's Fishing Derby

June 17th

~ Farmers Market

June 18th

~ Father's Day

June 21st

~ Summer Begins

June 24th

~ Farmers Market

For Blanchard

City events:

Please visit our website at

www.cityofblanchard.us

Library Events:

Please visit their website at

<https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard>

Farmers Market

The 2023 Blanchard Farmers Market is open for business every **Saturday** beginning at **8am** until **12 Noon** thru October.

Please visit our website under **RESIDENTS** and make application to participate.



Father's Day



Like Mother's Day, Father's Day has a modern origin. The idea came to Mrs. John Dodd as she sat listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.

Her father, William Smart, had raised his children alone on his Washington farm after his wife died giving birth to their sixth child. Mrs. Dodd proposed to the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA that they celebrate a "father's day" on June 5, her father's birthday. The idea received strong support, but the good ministers of Spokane asked that the day be changed to give them extra time to prepare sermons on the unexplored subject of fathers. The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington, and soon other towns had their own celebrations. In spite of widespread support, Father's Day did not become a permanent national holiday until 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed a law declaring that it be celebrated annually on the third **Sunday** in **June** (18th).

After Hours

For Public Works after-hour incidents:

- *water leaks
- *waterline breaks
- *sewer backups
- *sewer line breaks
- *lift station alarms
- *manholes overflowing
- *low-water pressure
- *no water
- *potholes
- *road repairs
- *signs missing
- *signs down
- *roadway flooding
- *debris in road
- *street lite out

Please call
405.485.9391.

The Blanchard Emergency Communications Center is 24-7 and will contact the on-call personnel regarding the incident.

Fishing Derby



The City's 3rd annual Fishing Derby will be tomorrow **Saturday, June 17th** at the Crystal Lake Park on South Tyler Avenue (just south of the City's Ballfields). Visit the City's Facebook Page for more information.

House Numbering

In an emergency, first responders (fire, police and ambulance) and utility service technicians depend on clearly marked addresses to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a residence can be challenging if street addresses (house numbers) are unreadable, hidden, unlit or missing. You can help emergency responders and service technicians locate your home by following these tips:

- Replace aging or faded numbers;
- Clear all obstructions (hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.) from blocking your house number;
- Post large numbers to allow visibility from the street;
- Place your numbers near the street or on the curb, with a reflective coating and contrasting background;
- Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (if your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides).

The BMC §4-402 requires all building and houses to be numbered. The even numbers (2,4,6, etc.) shall be on the east side of the streets extending north and south, and on the

Shop Local

Here's what happens when you "shop local."

1. For every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 stays in Blanchard.

What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community*.

2. You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the U.S. So why would you want your community to look that way?

3. Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.

4. Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

5. Local business owners know you, and you know them.

Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

6. Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and

south side of the streets extending east and west; the odd numbers (1,3,5, etc.) shall be on the opposite side of streets.

Independence Day Celebration

The City's Independence Day celebration will be **Monday, July 3rd**, from **6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Plans for the event are underway.

For more information visit our Facebook Page for the City of Blanchard or contact Chris Wittenbach.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, June 9th**.

Police Blotter

• **6/13/23** ~ LYNCH, Tyler arrested by Grady County on Blanchard Outstanding Warrants.

• **6/10/23** ~ HERNANDEZ, Gilardo arrested for Public Intoxication.

Proclamation

The Mayor issued the following proclamation today as follows:

Whereas the United States Congress established the United States Semi-Quincentennial Commission to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America and the Patriots that achieved American independence; and

Whereas the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism; and

more money available to beautify the community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong - in Blanchard.

7. Locally owned businesses pick the items and products they sell based on what they know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products because they buy for their own individual markets.

8. You are their friends and neighbors, and locally owned businesses have a vested interest in knowing how to serve you. They're passionate about what they do. Why not take advantage of it?

9. Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

10. The more interesting and unique Blanchard community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This

BENEFITS EVERYONE!

* Civic Economics - Andersonville Study of Retail Economics.

Whereas the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has the opportunity to raise the visibility of our patriots and create interest in who they were and enthusiasm for what they accomplished and educate others about their service and sacrifice; and

Whereas the American 250th marker commemorates the men and women who achieved American independence. These patriots, believing in the noble cause of liberty, fought valiantly to create a new nation; and

Whereas the City of Blanchard is honored to be one of the sites across Oklahoma and America; and

Now Therefore, I, Michael Scalf Sr., the Mayor of the City of Blanchard, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 17th, 2023, as *'America 250! Day'*; and "The Month of June as *"America 250! Month"* in the City of Blanchard and encourage all citizens to visit the Veterans Memorial Park, 305 East Veterans Memorial Highway, Blanchard and celebrate the richness of our American Heritage during this month and all year long.

Proclaimed on the 16th day of June, 2023.

Senior Nutrition Center

The Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center serves a fully balanced lunch (entrees, sides, desserts, tea and coffee) for all senior citizens five (5) days a week beginning at **11:30am, Monday thru Friday.**

MENU

(June 19th - June 23rd)

Monday ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Bread, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Breakfast Sausage, Gravy, Potatoes, Bisquick, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ BBQ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Pinto Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

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E-mail:
citymanager@cityofblanchard.us

We're on the Web!
www.cityofblanchard.us

Friday ~ Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Coleslaw, Bun, Dessert.

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a suggested donation of \$2.00 is requested to insure the continuance in meeting the nutritional needs of our elderly citizens.

Citizens under the age of 60 may participate but are required to pay \$5.00 for the meal. If you need a ride to the Center located at 101 S. Main Street, the City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus service. Rides are available by calling 1-866-THAT-BUS. For more information, call (405) 485-9260.

So...Think Shop Live Blanchard

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and the local economy relies on where residents spend their money and do their shopping. Sales tax is a direct and vital lifeline to essential services like public safety (police, fire, 911 services), public facilities, projects, programs and services. Shopping locally keeps businesses here in Blanchard, providing jobs and benefiting community schools and non-profits.

If there's one thing we can all do to make our dollars work for this community, it's to shop local! Grab dinner in Blanchard on your way home. You'd be surprised what a difference that can make. Shopping locally benefits the entire community. Make your tax dollars work for you and our community.

Special Meeting Action

The Blanchard City Council and the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority held a joint special meeting on **Tuesday, June 13th** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- **Swore-in** Christina Short to the City Council;
- **Held** Public Hearing re: annexing approximately 375 acres more or less;

- **Tabled** Ordinance approving said proposed Consent to Annexation;
- **Held** Budget Hearing for both City and BMIA;
- **Adopted** Resolution approving City Budget for FYE2024;
- **Adopted** Resolution approving BMIA Budget for FYE2024.

The next regular meetings of the City Council and BMIA Board of Trustees will be **Tuesday, June 27th**.

Summer Solstice



The summer solstice heralds the beginning of summer! The timing of the summer solstice depends on when the Sun reaches its farthest point north of the equator. This occurs annually sometime between June 20 and 22, depending on the time zone. This year, the event occurs at

9:57am (CDT) on Wednesday, June 21st.

The word *solstice* is from the Latin *solstitium*, from *sol* (sun) and *stitium* (to stop), reflecting the fact that the Sun appears to stop at this time (and again at the winter solstice). In temperate regions, we notice that the Sun is higher in the sky throughout the day, and its rays strike Earth at a more direct angle, causing the efficient warming we call summer. In the winter, just the opposite occurs: The Sun is at its southern most point and is low in the sky. Its rays hit the Northern Hemisphere at an oblique angle, creating the feeble winter sunlight.

Thank You Voters!

Blanchard citizens approved the proposed five (5%) percent Hotel/Motel Tax on Tuesday, June 13th by a final tally of 217 For and 92 Against the Proposition.

The City is working with hotels interested in locating in Blanchard. However, it does **NOT** take effect until one is constructed and opened for business in Blanchard.

Tourism Agenda

The Blanchard Tourism Board will hold their June meeting on **Monday, June 19th** to discuss, consider and take possible action on the following agenda items:

- The passage of the Hotel/Motel Tax passed by the voters on Tuesday, June 13th;
- Promotion and advertising of Blanchard Events;
- Planning of a Wine/Beer Festival in October;
- Tourism activities to include but not limited to commercial/radio ads, website/social media;
- Beautification activities to include but not limited to trash pickup, tall weeds and grass removal, landscaping; and
- Consent Agenda